



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 9, 2002

Contact: Tracy Dunne
916/445-6687

GO SERV APPLAUDS FEDERAL COMMITMENT TO INCREASING VOLUNTEERISM

California could experience increase in funding and volunteers

SACRAMENTO – Chuck J. Supple, Executive Director for the Governor’s Office on Service and Volunteerism (GO SERV) applauded federal efforts underway to increase service opportunities and welcomed the recently unveiled guiding principles of the Citizen Service Act as a way to advance service and volunteerism. The Citizen Service Act, originally introduced during the President’s State of the Union address, would have direct implications for GO SERV, as well as California’s other national service programs.

“An entire nation is eager to get involved and give back to their communities, and I strongly support efforts at both the national and state level that give people such opportunities,” Mr. Supple.

The USA Freedom Corps, of which the Citizen Service Act is a part, calls for a 50 percent increase in AmeriCorps; a 4,000 hour commitment by every American to some type of community service; a 20 percent increase in Senior Corps; and a 50 percent commitment of federal college work-study funds to community service, up from its current seven percent.

If enacted, California could experience an increase of approximately \$15 million, 3,500 new AmeriCorps members, 7,000 more Senior Corps members, and an additional 35,000 college work-study service positions.

The principles outlined earlier today, designed to help guide the reauthorization process currently underway of the national service programs, AmeriCorps, Senior Corps and Learn and Serve America would support and encourage greater engagement of citizens; make federal funds more responsive to state and local needs, and provide greater assistance to secular and faith-based community organizations.

“With such an increased interest in service, greater flexibility and autonomy for national service programs at the state level makes sense,” said Mr. Supple.

In anticipation of the expansion of national service programs in California, GO SERV recently made available \$500,000 in planning grants to encourage and diversify involvement in national service through AmeriCorps.

GO SERV is California's national service program, disseminating more than \$30 million to support more than 7,000 AmeriCorps opportunities through 65 community-based programs statewide.

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